

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressmen Jim Costa (D-Fresno) called on all residents of the San Joaquin Valley to join in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month, which begins today. Costa released the following statement to celebrate and honor Jewish culture in America.

“When the first Jewish settlers came to this land over 350 years ago, they sought a new world to practice their faith freely and without persecution. Since then, Jews have made numerous contributions in technology, literature, entertainment, politics and medicine which add to the fabric of American life.

“The history of our nation is founded upon the role immigrants played, and the United States is stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have, and continue to become American citizens. During this month, we celebrate the rich history of the American Jewish community and pay tribute to all they have done for our nation.

“It is my hope that this month provides a framework for all Americans to discuss Jewish culture, and we will end the ignorance and intolerance that ultimately leads to anti-Semitism.”